

Norfolk Reentry Council

January 23, 2015

9:00 a.m.

Planning Committee

Michael Paris gave an update about the Norfolk Project Homeless Connect 1/28/15 at Norfolk Scope. He also made an announcement stating there would be a planning committee meeting immediately following the council meeting.

Presentation

Mike Paris and Joy Sullivan gave an update about RAPIDGate Program. Their report included information about the paperwork and process involved for credentialing, including TWIC Card issues involving employer waivers, cost, military, and non-military. A final report is still being prepared to further determine what efforts can be made to address these issues. A handout was distributed to members present.

Child Support Enforcement

Joy Sullivan and Deidre Bailey gave an update about DCSE programs and initiatives, including an update on their work within the City Jails in Va. Beach and Norfolk.

DHS Program

Madonna Flores gave an updates on DHS programs. Family and Community Engagement continues to work with clients to strengthen their family and community ties. Recently 12 people have volunteered to be mentors and will also occasionally come and speak at peer support groups; She can use some more mentors especially males. In December she conducted an orientation at Fluvanna; 8 women volunteered to participate in the GROW Initiative. The next Family Reunification Seminar is scheduled for 1/27/15 and 3/31/15 at 6 p.m. at WDC room 303. PEER Support is open to women at 5pm and men/women 6pm every Tuesday at WDC.

Institutional Updates

St. Brides –Gave updates about Fatherhood Program. Job Opening for Offender Workforce Development Specialist (apply on Commonwealth D.O.C. website)

Indian Creek-Gave an update about their Forklift Certification Class. Contact james.keeling@vadoc.gov

Greensville-Mark your calendars for upcoming Resource and Career Fair either 4/21/15 or 4/28/15. Short 8 counselors. T4C. Update on GED & Trade certification.

Haynesville-They have 14 going to Norfolk City Jail. Update on GED.

Sussex I & II-Continue to provide ID's. Has Cognitive Community for Education and Barbering Program.

Norfolk City Jail-ID's, Work Release Program, Drug Treatment, AA meeting and 14 received their GEDs.

P & P

Reentry Docket- Mr. Coleman reported there are 20 participants. They have 50 participants in the Drug Court and Mental Health Track; also a Veterans Track. Will begin next Thinking for a Change (T4C) class on 2/3/15. SPO Sykes also announced NABCI Conference will be held 3/11/15-3/13/15.

Veterans-Update on resources available to veteran's navigator for education especially the GI Bill.

VEC

Gave an update about disabled veteran outreach services with offenders; Rehabilitative services and Wounded Warrior Program.

The Wisdom Tree Center

Gave an update about the services offered at the Wisdom Tree Center especially their agriculture program and transportation services. Contact information www.thewisdomtreecenter.org or 770-7885. Pamphlets were distributed.

211

An update on utilizing 211 as a referral for community resources in Virginia.

STEP UP

Sandra Brandt gave a legislative update about upcoming bills to be presented at the next General Assembly session; the following bills were mentioned- Child Support, Law Enforcement Body Cameras, Court Costs and Fines and Minimum Wage.

Kathy Hall informed members that former Reentry Council Co-Convener, Dr. Denise Biron's memorial service will be held on 1/24/15 at Freedom Fellowship 12 p.m.

Members planning on attending the next council meeting at Indian Creek Correctional Center must complete a Release of Information form and return to Kathy Hall or James Keeling ASAP.

The next Norfolk Reentry Council meeting is Friday March 20, 2015 @ 9a.m. Indian Creek Correctional Center.

Meeting Adjourned 11:15 a.m.

Sheila London